

Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday December 3, 2014 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:00 pm.

Present: Chair Wilson and Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Selectman Quist and Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau

Audience: Ron Gordon, Rosie Gordon

Minutes

Minutes of November 19, 2014: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 19, 2014 with corrections. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Minutes of November 21, 2014: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 21, 2014 as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1) Selectman Quist abstained from the vote.

Old Business

1. **Earned Time and New Law:** Select Board Members reviewed the new MA statute concerning employees and it was determined that the Town Policy is in compliance to law. The benefits of Earned Time with a simplification of the system were discussed and benefit calculations were finalized. Select Board Members agreed to recommend the adoption of the policy for Departments that were overseen by the Select Board.

Motion to Adopt: Following discussion and review, Chair Wilson made a motion to adopt the Earned Time Policy as it applies to Departments that fall under the authority of the Select Board and to recommend to the other Departments to follow suit. The motion, seconded by Chair Wilson, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. **Unlicensed Dogs:** Chair Wilson discussed requirements for a Nuisance Dog Hearing because of the problem with a family having unlicensed dogs running loose in town. Town Council advised sending a Non-Criminal Complaint for failure to vaccinate the dogs and issue a fine. In addition, the Select Board could hold a Public Hearing to address the issue.

Motion to Issue Non-Criminal Complaint: Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to contact the Police Chief to issue a Non-Criminal Complaint to the owner of dogs for failure to license their dogs and hold a Public Nuisance Dog Hearing if no action is taken. The motion, seconded by Walt Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

3. **By-Law Review Committee:** Selectman Quist suggested putting article in Goal Post to solicit interest to participate in formation of a new By-Law Committee. It was agreed to do so in the next issue.

4. Broadband Discussion: Chair Wilson reported that Massachusetts Broadband Institute, WiredWest and FRCOG had joined together to work to bring broadband fiber optic to the underserved regions of MA. She explained the benefits:

- 1./ improve real estate values
- 2./ for children to perform research online
- 3./ provide savings to citizens with packages for phone, tv and internet
- 4./ more dependable service of telephone, internet and TV.

Since the FCC refused to deem fiber optic cable a utility it is not a requirement to supply communities with this. Since the topography of the region does not accommodate wireless it will be necessary for towns to find a way to fund the installation. By grouping with other towns and obtaining our own funding through bonds the savings in bundling services can offset the rise in tax rate. MBI asked each town to consider signing a non-binding resolution to confirm intent to give incentive to pursue further action. Selectman Quist emphasized the need to attract young families to the town since the population is shrinking and bringing in fiber optic will help.

Motion to Sign Resolution: Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign a Resolution of Intent to support efforts of the WiredWest cooperative initiative to construct and operated a regional "fiber to home" broadband network. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Following the motion, it was agreed that there was a need to hold informational sessions in the future to help educate citizens about the process.

5. BOS Budget Items: Select Board Members reviewed items for the FY16 Budget that are overseen by the Select Board. It was agreed to obtain quotes for maintenance needed. Animal Control Officer Ed Grinnell asked for a stipend of \$500.00 to cover his work in Rowe. It was agreed to find money in the future to cover his expenses.

6. New Server Project: Chair Wilson reported that the replacement of the Servers needs addressing as soon as possible as one server has software from 2003 and could be compromised. Town Departments are meeting with Joel Mollison of Northeast IT to discuss needs and will explain how the upgrade will be accomplished.

7. Dr. Topolski Request: Select Board Members discussed the area Physician's request to host office visits in Rowe. Chair Wilson reported that she learned from research that Dr. Topolski did not have admitting privileges at area hospitals which was of great concern and that Rowe's current services were meeting citizen needs.

Motion to Pass Over Request: Following discussion, Vice-Chair Gleason made a motion to pass over Dr. Topolski's Request to offer health services to Rowe. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

New Business

1. Accountant: High Cost of FRCOG: Chair Wilson brought up the high cost of the FRCOG Accounting and spoke with Bob Dean of FRCOG about the high cost of the Accounting for Rowe

and was given no satisfactory explanation for the high cost so recommended advertising for an Accountant for the Town to lower the cost.

Motion to Advertise for Accountant: Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to advertise for the position of Accountant for next fiscal year. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

3. Discuss Role of Finance Committee: Chair Wilson said it was irregular to have the Finance Committee have access to accounting programs which is unnecessary. Following discussion it was agreed each Department could be supplied specific line item information pertinent to their department by the Accountant on a bi-weekly basis.
4. Town Counsel for STM?: There was discussion about having Town Counsel present for the Special Town Meeting in December. Following discussion, it was agreed to do so.
5. FRCOG Local Technical Assistance Request Form: Select Board Members reviewed a Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) request to prioritize areas where FRCOG should focus attention on their technical assistance to towns. Following discussion, Select Board Members reviewed the form and listed priorities.
6. Town Gazebo: Chair Wilson reported that she had spoken with Steve Crowningshield and that he would commence work on the Town Gazebo in January and the decision whether to repair or replace can be addressed once he investigates further. In addition, Steve had found no problem with the Town Hall front door.
7. Fire Dept. Business: Select Board Members discussed Fire Dept. stipends and the office work that has been necessary. Chair Wilson raised the concern that Jenn Morse had spent many hours volunteering her time to work on office paperwork for the Fire Dept. since the resignation of the former Chief. She asked members to consider paying Jenn \$500.00 for all the time spent organizing and bringing records up to date.

Motion to Pay: Chair Wilson made a motion to pay Jenn Morse \$500.00 for all her extra time and effort for the unanticipated work she did in the Fire Department to bring records up to date. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

8. School Committee Warrant Signatures: Vice-Chair Gleason expressed concern that the School Committee did not sign School Warrants prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a system needed to be developed to have the School Committee sign Warrants prior to the Select Board review since Chair Wilson confirmed with Town Counsel that it was not legal to sign without their approvals. It was agreed to pull checks and hold them until the Warrants were signed by the School Committee.

Audience of Citizens: None

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 6:57 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (3/0/0)

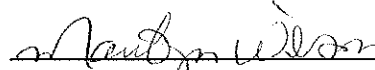
Respectfully Submitted,

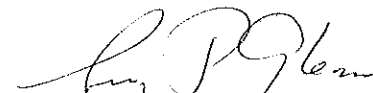
Janice Boudreau

Approval Date:

December 17, 2014

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chair


Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 12/03/14
- Resolution Letter of Intent
- Earned Time Details – Presented by Chair Wilson
- The Last Mile: Fact Sheet (2 pages)
- 2015 FRCOG Local Technical Assistance Request Form (2 pgs)